GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:5
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
NON PAYMENT OF SALARY TO OVERSEAS INDIAN WORKERS
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a construction company in Dubai has not paid salary to its Indian workers for the last one year as reported in the Hindi daily Navbharat Times dated August 12, 2005;

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of such cases that came to light during the last two years, country-wise;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government against the agencies involved in sending workers abroad illegally; and

(e) the details of measures undertaken by the Government to protect the interest of Indians workers abroad?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 5 by Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana for reply on 23.11.2005 regarding non-payment of salary to overseas Indian workers

(a) & (b) As reported by the Consulate General of India, Dubai, there was no such case.

(c) Such data is not maintained.

(d) Sporadic complaints are received about cheating of Indian workers by unregistered recruiting agents. On receipt of such complaints, the concerned Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) are directed to file complaints/FRIs against such unregistered recruiting agents for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act 1983. During the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.10.2005), 25, 39 and 49 complaints have respectively been filed with the Police authorities against such illegal recruiting agencies.

(e)With a view to curb the exploitation of Indian workers going abroad for employment, it has been made mandatory w.e.f. 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment documents, viz., demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories of workers, i.e., unskilled labour and housemaids/domestic workers; and in respect of nine countries, viz., Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Tanzania, Israel, Jordan, Sudan, Kuwait and Brunei, these employment documents are required to be attested by the concerned Indian Mission(s). Further, with a view to avoid exploitation of workers by unscrupulous recruiting agencies, all State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to instruct the Police Stations to keep strict vigil on the activities of the unregistered agents engaged in illegal emigration.